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BOARD FOR THE COORDINATION OF CHILD CARE REGULATION

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PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILD CARE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: October 2, 2003
Meeting Time: 1:30 P.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., Room 156D
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 1

Rep. Budak, chairperson of the subcommittee, called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. Those present included Sven Schumacher, Beth Eiler for Mike Murray, Mara Snyder, Carole Stein, Shelli Williams, Theresa Jolivet, Natalie Wolfe, Janice Katz, Deborah Chubb, Kathryn Williams, and Joe Shelton.

Ms. Stein summarized the work plan for the subcommittee, including two meetings on a new affordability strategy for child care, with resulting recommendations to the Board. She referred to a proposed outline of items for discussion by the subcommittee.²

Mr. Schumacher emphasized his desire to involve a group of partners, beyond businesses and government, to aid in resolving child care affordability issues. He described his work in forming a group on the east side of Indianapolis to address child care issues, stating that the group includes various interested groups such as community action groups, businesses, nonprofit organizations, health providers, and others, that have an interest in child care. There was general discussion about other groups that might agree to sponsor children in child care by paying child care fees, forming coalitions to provide child care, and special needs children in child care.

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

² Attachment 1.

Rep. Budak noted SB 458-2003 and HB 1642-2003, which were introduced during the 2003 session of the General Assembly, but did not pass. The bills provided for child care tax incentives for employers. Ms. Jolivet pointed out that the fiscal situation of the state created difficulties for those bills.

Ms. Shelli Williams provided handouts³ containing information about the Business Partnership Specialists project and discussed her work in involving businesses in assisting employees with child care. She noted that nontraditional hours and care for mentally ill individuals are two areas that are noted to be employee needs, and that affordability of child care is an issue that is frequently brought to her attention. Her materials specified various methods through which employers are able to assist employees with child care.

There was general discussion about informing businesses about and involving them in the Business Partnership Specialists project and methods of assisting with child care through group discussions, publication of information in business publications, and Chamber of Commerce activities.

Ms. Snyder noted that approaching affordability from the perspective of assisting child care providers to reduce their costs may be helpful. Methods discussed were reduced cost fire safety inspections, physical examinations, and drug screens.

Ms. Eiler noted that children whose family incomes are above the 127% of the federal income poverty limit (FPL) for Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) eligibility, who were previously eligible for CCDF, but no longer are, are perhaps the most seriously impacted group of people in need of child care assistance. There was general discussion about possible methods to identify families in this group, including TANF, census data, information from the Indiana Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, and the Children's Health Insurance Program. It was noted that there are now 3258 children whose family incomes are below 127% FPL and are eligible for CCDF assistance, but are on a waiting list due to lack of funds, and that this group would be a good place to start in assisting with child care expenses, perhaps as a pilot project. Ms. Stein noted that government partnerships with the private sector are dependent on availability of government funds.

There was general discussion concerning various possible sources of funding, including workforce development money, insurance premium tax, voluntary donations on tax forms, Hoosier Safety Foundation, and other foundations and grant programs. Mr. Schumacher emphasized the need to focus on private sources of funding, since government sources are shrinking.

There was general discussion concerning small business priorities, broadening involvement to assist parents in returning to work, and groups to be involved, including schools, firefighters, police, charitable organizations, and local governments. There was also discussion of the need to obtain and provide information on costs of assisting with child care, such as the actual cost of child care for a child for one year, to possible sponsors. Ms. Eiler and Ms. Shelli Williams agreed to investigate the funding process that would be needed for a public/private child care partnership program.

There was additional discussion concerning incentives to businesses to assist in child care issues. Ms. Shelli Williams noted that tax credits have been noted to be ineffective. Ms. Stein suggested that different methods of providing tax credits might be more effective. Employer outreach meetings were discussed, with an emphasis on the need to conduct them soon, so that the legislature will have time to act on recommendations, if legislative action is needed. Ms. Jolivet agreed to investigate what incentives might be effective for members of the Chamber of Commerce.

Rep. Budak scheduled the next subcommittee meeting for October 15, 2003, at 1:30 p.m.

With no further business to discuss, Rep. Budak adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:00 p.m.

³Attachment 2.